

an elderly, well-dressed man come and bow down, and he begged us to receive a little book as a token of acknowledgment for giving him one. On opening it we read something to this effect: 'He that gives a good book is a good man; he that gives ten is a very good man; he that gives a hundred is a very, very good man, and will be happy for ages; but he that gives a large number of good books must be regarded as a benevolent individual, and as a benefactor to his species, and will be inconceivably happy for ever.' I mention this, to show the light in which the Chinese regard the distribution of tracts. Indeed they have something like religious tracts of their own. It is not an uncommon thing, when a man has been successful in a commercial enterprise, for him to go to the priests of Confucius, and say, 'I have been blessed in my undertaking; I am wealthy; I wish you to select some portions of the writings of Confucius, and I will be at the expense of the blocks by which they shall be printed.' The selection is made, the terms proposed are published, saying, 'The very honorable gentleman, So-and-so, has been so benevolent as to have the blocks of Confucius cut, and he now calls on liberal gentlemen to aid him in the work.' A subscription list is opened; one promises to pay for printing fifty copies, another twenty, and when the subscription list is closed they employ a printer; a number of copies are struck off, and given to each subscriber in proportion to his subscription, and these are distributed to the poor, in the dwellings in which they live.

"May I give you some idea with respect to the manner in which we carry on our work in Shanghai? This spot is one of the five ports open to commercial intercourse. The resident population is not more than 200,000, but we have sometimes an influx of strangers from all parts of the empire, making a population of 600,000. I have never seen so truly a mercantile city as Shanghai. In this populous place we have thirty district congregations in each week, and after the service is over we distribute tracts. Those who come from every part of the empire carry them to the interior, or to the Archipelago of the east. We were one day sitting in the house—we had been making it a matter of earnest prayer that God's blessing might rest on our labors—we saw a fine intelligent young man walking backwards and forwards in front of our dwelling. Supposing he might have listened to a sermon and wanted an explanation, we asked him to come in. We gave him tea, according to Chinese custom, and requested him to be seated. He told us that he came from a great city in the interior, and said, 'I have found a little book there which contains something more sublime than anything I have found elsewhere.' I was told this was printed at Shanghai. I have travelled here, and after great difficulty I have discovered the house where you dwell. Did you print that tract?' We saw that it was one of our publications, and attempted to explain the truths it contained. Night after night, when the toils of the day were over, that young man came to listen to the exposition of Scripture. It was most delightful to see how his powerful and educated mind grasped one truth of religion after another; and at length he went back, carrying with him tracts and portions of the Scriptures. We do not doubt the piety of that young man.

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